Mr. President, Members of the Legislature:
Thank you for listening to us tonight.

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK HAS A PROUD AND RADICAL HISTORY!

This is the seat, the hub of civil rights activities, of abolitionist speakers, of women and men who spoke fiercely in favor of the Radical Notion of Women Getting the Vote!

We are a Progressive City which EMBRACES CONTROVERSY; Discussion, and forum!

I'm proud to live in a city in which politicians and judges are keen enough and open enough to give a fair hearing to issues which may be difficult to understand.

If we're READY TO LIVE WITH EQUALITY BETWEEN THE SEXES, then girls and women should have at the very least an equal ~~DRESS~~ clothing Options ~~CODE~~ -- that what is now a PRIVILEGE for PART of the population should be a RIGHT for all.

Let's DARE to place PRINCIPLES BEFORE POLITICAL APPEASEMENT!

Let's pledge to support JUST CAUSES -- despite inevitable difficulties of adapting to change -- to see that JUSTICE PREVAILS FOR EVERYONE!

We can start by LISTENING to each other with an open heart and mind.

Rochester continues to be in the forefront of women's rights ..New York State continues to be a leader in education. We are NOT a provincial little town which caters to those who would suppress Controversy and Change!

Women, children, men..lawmakers, legislators -- ALL of us benefit from EQUALITY BY LAW. EVERYONE suffers when ANY LAW exists which discriminates -- which eliminates options on the basis of age, race, gender -- no matter WHAT its particular manifestation, large or small, apparent or subtle, widespread or local, blatant or difficult to detect.

Rochester, New York can be on the map for being part of the Civilized Segment of the World, in its validation of Every Person, poor or rich, old or young, black or white, female or male.

Topfree Equality Day shows Rochester ONCE AGAIN to be a leader in recognizing the enormous implications of laws which define actions legal or illegal BY GENDER.

We RIGHT HERE are continuing OUR PROUD HISTORY!

-Kathie Reilly 5/23/88